

Appl. No. 09/682,823
Amdt. dated August 03, 2005
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner:

Claims 1, 8, 12, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lo et al.. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo further in view of Wieringa. Claims 3-7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo et al. in view of Benson. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo in view of Benson further in view of Izumi. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo in view of Kirmse. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo in view of Lavendel. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lo in view of Morris.

Response:

All rejections depend upon U.S. Patent No. 5,911,044 to Lo et al. as a reference.

As noted in the previous response, Lo et al. disclose the transmission of the image file to only one client, while the present invention transmits the image file to a plurality of clients simultaneously. Claims were amended in an effort to point out this distinction and a relevant argument was made in the response.

The Examiner has rejected this argument saying that Lo et al. anticipates a plurality of user clients, citing item 34 of Fig.1, Col.14, lines 65-Col.15, line 9, and Col.20, lines 32-37. With all due respect to the Examiner, all three of these citations refer to a plurality of sources (plurality of workgroup or network scanners) of an image file rather than the claimed plurality of user clients that each receive the image file. Obviously, these two situations are quite different from one another in

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connectivities, functionality, and result, and as such, it is difficult for the Applicant to understand why a plurality of sources can be used to anticipate the a plurality of recipients.

5 For example, claim 1 has the limitations that an image capturing device generates image data, the image data is transmitted to an image transmitting program in a servicing station, and that “the image transmitting program transmits the image data to the plurality of on-line user clients”. For a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference device must at least be capable of doing the same thing. Lo et al. not only
10 does not directly meet these claim limitations, but cannot be modified to meet them due to the security features already discussed and repeated in the following paragraph for convenience.

15 The Paragraph beginning on line 15 of Col.7 discusses a necessity for client computer security and discloses that the scanner server cannot transmit data to a client computer without the client first initiating an open session. Figs.8 and columns 15-16 clearly indicate the scanner server and a client computer work in a 1 to 1 relationship during any “open session” between the scanner server and client. Col.8, lines 61-67 state that a user must identify the client connection to ensure (for security reasons) that the
20 image is transmitted to the correct client.

Thus, one clear structural and functional distinction between the present application and the disclosure of Lo et al. is that in Lo et al., only one client, to the exclusion of all other clients, receives the image, and in the present invention, all clients on the list receive the image.

25 It is believed that it is not obvious to modify the disclosure of Lo et al. to meet the limitations of claim 1 because Lo et al.’s limited 1 to 1 relationship between the scanner server and the client is stated as being necessary to preserve security (Col.3, lines 1-22).

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Changing the limited 1 to 1 relationship changes a prime operational principle of the disclosure and is therefore not obvious.

As such, the Applicant believes that the present invention represents a new and useful device not anticipated or suggested by the prior art and respectfully requests
5 reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20.

Sincerely yours,

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)

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